

March 26, 1975

community based correctional facilities, regional correctional facilities, misdemeanor correctional facilities, facilities for alcoholics and users of controlled substances, new and innovative parole and post-conviction procedures and implementation of the programs with a final plan to be presented on or before April 30, 1975." Thus you see that there is a deadline, there is a date which is coming up next month.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me Senator Luedtke. I think Senator Luedtke has explained the importance of this report and it might be well to have more order here so that we can hear the report. Would the House be in a little better order please?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Thankyou Mr. President. The essence of this is that this is a mandate to the Judiciary Committee and to the Legislature by the Legislature to accomplish this in. By way of review let us advise the body that between the spring of 1972 and January of 1973 the Judiciary Committee then held some twelve public hearings, bringing in some professional consultants, and developed a blueprint for action. I think everyone of you has received this blueprint for action which was the report made, the first report made in January of 1973 to this Legislature which was in a 334 page comprehensive report entitled An Analysis of Correctional Needs, State of Nebraska which presented the analysis, the goals, the recommendations of your committee which worked together with the Governor's office, the Department of Corrections and the Crime Commission to develop this report. A plan was subsequently specified last year, in 1974 in section 8 of LB 1054, as the guide for any statewide correctional service plan which plan incidentally we mandated in LB 1054 and LB 1055 and which resulted in December of last year in a report by the director, Joseph Vecch in a state plan for corrections which I hope by this time you have not seen you will avail yourself of and review before the major legislation on penal correctional reform comes before this body. In 1973, just by way of further review, the legislation included LB 563 which established a separate department of corrections, LB 524 increased the Board of Parole from three to five members with three full time members. All of these were recommendations of your committee. In 1974 legislation authorized the construction of the diagnostic and evaluation facility on the Regional Center Campus which is now being constructed and is underway with the director already having been appointed. It included other numerous juvenile justice controlled substances legislation and proposed legislation on alcoholic treatment and decriminalization of drunkenness. Now, interim studies during this last year specifically dealt with pretrial diversion, prisoners rights and discipline procedure in the institutions in the state which incidentally resulted in LB 275 which is presently on General File. Other interim activity of the Judiciary Committee included major investigations as to the fire and safety and the health and sanitation conditions at both the reformatory unit and the penitentiary unit of the penal complex. If you remember your press reports you recall that this resulted in reports from the State Fire Marshal and the director of the Department of Health making and mandating certain improvement and repairs in these institutions in order for life safety. We also obtained a thorough investigative investigation and analysis of the educational: